

EDITORIAL PAGE

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"In all things that are purely social we can be as separate as the fingers, but in all things that affect our mutual progress and development we can be together as the hand."—Booker T. Washington.

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CITIZEN JOE ON BROTHERHOOD WEEK

(Specially prepared for Brotherhood Week, Feb. 20-27)

Sometimes I hear and read things which sound to me as if some people in our country have a very low opinion of it. They talk about nothing but our faults as if that is all there is in America to talk about. I admit we have faults. But—look at the progress we have made in overcoming them. We're not standing still. We're going ahead. Under the Fatherhood of God, the Creator of us all, there is a real American brotherhood in the making.

I'm for that — and I believe in talking about what a good country America is—and about what we're doing to make it a better country for everyone regardless of race, religious, or class.

That's why I like something which Alexander F. Miller said recently about the progress for a better America that is being made in the South.

Mr. Miller is the director of the Southeastern Regional Office in Atlanta, Georgia for the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith.

He said that "the South made important strides forward in 1948 towards resolving its problems of group tensions." And he proved it by the following facts:

"The failure of the Ku Klux Klan to achieve any real impact in the South outside the state of Georgia, despite sporadic attempts at organization in Birmingham, Knoxville, and Orlando.

"The vigorous fight waged by Southern newspaper editors against the Ku Klux Klan and similar organizations.

"The courageous stand taken by church leaders not only against 'hooded terrorists who desecrate the cross' but also for the extension of the frontiers of democracy so that all groups might enjoy the benefits guaranteed to them under the Constitution.

"The action taken by many city councils in Georgia and neighboring states in passing ordinances prohibiting the appearance on their streets and in public places of masked or hooded individuals.

"Rejection by the voting public of all but two un-Semites and anti-Catholics who ran for office during the past elections; and the rejection by Gov. J. Strom Thurmond and the States Rights Party of profers of assistance from hate-monger Gerald L. K. Smith and his financial angel, George W. Armstrong, wealthy Fort Worth Texan.

"The speedy arrest, conviction and sentence to life imprisonment of two white men in rural Alabama for raping a Negro woman.

"The realization by more and more Southern leaders that with their espousal of states rights goes the corollary of states responsibility.

"The continued extension of the franchise to both Whites and Negroes. Negroes now vote in large numbers in practically every urban community and most rural areas in the South.

"The increasing awareness by Southerners of the complexity of their minority problems and the necessity of solving them justly if American ideals of democracy are to persevere abroad.

"The election of an increased number of progressive governors and congressmen in Southern states."

That's worth talking about when we observe Brotherhood Week this year. It's a good example of what can be done—of what is being done. I hope that every American and the people of every community in our country will do their best to make 1949 a banner year for brotherhood in these United States.

LIBERIAN TRAVELOG

By Jacob L. Reddix, President
Jackson College
Jackson, Mississippi
No. 2.

NEW YORK CITY — I rose early in the morning on my first day in New York, because I had less than three days to complete a number of things that are necessary when one is leaving the United States for a foreign country. I had several important conferences scheduled; I had to secure French and Liberian visas; and I had to do some last minute shopping. These appointments were widely scattered over New York City, of which Manhattan is only a part. Being a "Country Gentleman" I had to use the sure way, the taxicab. Sometimes I found that my next engagement was right around the corner, and at other times it was miles away. Although I had been in New York a number of times, I feel that I have made little or no progress towards mastering the situation of going places. Really, the town

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is too much city for me. More people live in New York than the total population of eight of our least populated states. More revenue is paid into the Federal Treasury in the City of New York than the total from all of the states east of the Mississippi River and south of the Mason and Dixon line! This is no city for a country man!

My first engagement was with the officials of the Phelps-Stokes Fund at 101 Park Avenue overlooking the Grand Central Station. Dr. Channing H. Tobias is director. He was for many years a director of the world Young Men's Christian Association movement. Dr. Tobias introduced me to Rev. Anson Phelps-Stokes, Jr. nephew of the founder of the fund and other members of the staff. The secretary of the Fund had worked out most of the details incident to my leaving New York and for my travel in a foreign country. I window shopped in the Rockefeller Center and along Fifth Avenue in the afternoon. This shopping district is one of a high degree of specialization. One shop sold only mens ties thousands of ties, with hundreds of customers pressing to make purchases for Christmas. Another store sold only butterflies — butterflies, glass butterflies, butterflies, books on butterflies or what have you.

Wednesday evening after supper, Dr. R. O'Hara Lanier, former American Minister to Liberia called at my hotel for a visit with me. Dr. Lanier who is now president of the new Texas State University for Negroes, is easily one of the great educators of America. Liberia was indeed fortunate to have him as American Minister for two years in such a critical time in her history. The Texas State University for Negroes opened its doors a year ago last September with the largest opening enrollment of any new college in history — more than 2,000 students on the first day. It had a budget of a half million dollars for the first year, and five million dollars for the buildings. Houston is a big city in a big state, and they do big things in a big way. Dr. Lanier is a big man for his big job. He entrusted me with a personal Christmas present for His Excellency, W. V. S. Tubman, President of the Republic of Liberia.

On Thursday at noon, I was scheduled for a luncheon with the directors of the Liberia Company and the Liberian Foundation. Dr. Edwin R. Embree, former president of the Julius Rosenwald Fund, is now the president of the Liberian Foundation. He can no doubt claim the distinction of having given away more of other people's money than any other man in history. During his years with the Rockefeller Fund and during his twenty-five years with the Rosenwald Fund, he probably gave away a million dollars a year for thirty years.

I called at the Chatam Hotel an hour early for the luncheon in order to visit Dr. Embree and to discuss with him some of the educational plans of the Liberian Foundation. The Foundation is sponsored by the Liberia Company which was organized for former Secretary of State Stettinius in order to develop some of the natural resources of Liberia. The Foundation was organized to de-

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veloped the social and educational welfare of the Liberian people. It has taken for its initial project the development of a system of public education and better public health facilities. Most of the men at the luncheon were leaders of American industry. The president requested that I coordinate my study in Liberia with several of their experts who are already on the job in Liberia.

When I finally decided to fly to Liberia instead of going by ship with my family, as I had originally planned, I realized that I would have to abandon a great deal of the huge quantity of odds and ends that I had hoped to carry. Mrs. Reddix censored my wearing apparel and personal effects very closely. Even after all possible eliminations I still had three bags which were overweight by more than fifty pounds. When I reached the airport in Jackson, Mississippi, I found out that it would cost me \$21 for overweight from Jackson to New York. I realized that I would have to make some arrangements for shipping my bag by boat. It would cost me almost \$100 for excess luggage by air. The Phelps-Stokes Fund made arrangements to ship the bag on a boat that was leaving New York three days later. My problem then was how to pack bag number three so that my remaining two bags would fall within the sixty-six pound limit for air passengers. I packed every article that could be crammed in the extra bag. I filled my briefcase with bottles and toilet articles. I also filled my overcoat pockets to capacity. I had been informed that all articles carried in hand and on your person would not count as excess baggage. With my overcoat on, my briefcase in my hand, and my camera on my shoulder I really looked the part of a "big man." No questions were asked by the air officials.

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